

Honor Flight

History & Vision

The Honor Flight program was conceived by Earl Morse, a Physician Assistant and Retired Air Force Captain, to honor veterans he has taken care of for the past 27 years. After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Earl was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio. In May of 2004, the WWII Memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington DC which quickly became the topic of discussion among his WWII Veteran patients. Earl repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel out to visit THEIR memorial. Most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to DC perhaps with a family member or friend. As summer turned to fall, and then winter, these same veterans returned to the clinic for their follow-up visits. Earl asked if they accomplished their dream of visiting the WWII Memorial. By now, for most of the veterans queried, reality had settled in; it was clear to most that it simply wasn't financially or physically possible for them to make the journey. Most of these senior heroes are in their 80s and lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip on their own. Families and friends also lacked the resources and time to complete a 3-4 day trip to DC. Earl could tell that the majority of the veterans had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial that was specifically created to honor their services and the services of their fellow comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice. That's when Earl decided that there has to be a way to get these heroes to DC to see their memorial.

In addition to being a Physician Assistant, Earl is also a private pilot and member of one of our nation's largest and best aero clubs located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. In December of 2004, Earl asked one of his WWII Veteran patients if he could personally fly him out to DC, free of charge, to visit his memorial. Mr. Loy broke down and cried. He said at his age he would probably never get to see his memorial. He accepted the offer. A second WWII Veteran was asked the same question a week later. He too cried and enthusiastically accepted a trip to DC. Realizing that the desire was so great, Earl started to ask for help from other pilots to make these hopes and dreams a reality. In January of 2005, Earl addressed about 150 members of the aero club during a safety meeting, outlining a volunteer program to fly veterans to their memorial. There were two major stipulations to his request. The first was that the veterans pay nothing. The entire aircraft rental (\$600 to \$1200 for the day) would have to be paid solely by the pilots. The second was that the pilots personally escort the veterans around DC the entire day. After Earl spoke, 11 pilots who had never met his patients volunteered to make their dream a reality. *Honor Flight* was born.

Other dedicated volunteers joined, a board was formed, funds were raised and the first flight took to the air in May of 2005. Six small planes flew 12 very happy veterans out to Manassas Virginia, just outside of Washington DC. Vans then transported the pilots and veterans into DC and to the WWII Memorial. The responses from both the veterans and the pilots were overwhelming. It was an experience that will live with them for the rest of their lives. Soon other flights were planned and successfully accomplished. So many veterans wanted to participate that towards the end of the year, commercial aircraft were used to accommodate forty veterans at a time,

including many in wheelchairs. At the end of the first year, Honor Flight took 137 WWII Veterans to their memorial. In 2006, commercial flights were used exclusively because of the number of veterans on the waiting list and adverse weather conditions prohibited the small aircraft from participating on a regular schedule. Locally, another 300 veterans completed the journey in 2006.

The mission and ideals of the program began to spread across America. Other cities and states became aware of our efforts and we fostered working relationships with dedicated community leaders in several states. Jeff Miller in Hendersonville North Carolina led the expansion into areas not serviced by direct commercial flights to the Washington DC area. He accomplished what was thought to be impossible. He organized and obtained funding for an entire commercial jet to fly local area veterans out to visit the monument to their accomplishments. Henderson County's Own *HonorAir* was born. On September 23rd and again on the 24th the US Airways chartered jet was filled with WWII Veterans and their guardians. He again repeated his success on November 4th of 2006. In less than three months, *HonorAir* had flown over 300 WWII Veterans! He quickly shared his expertise with others to start *HonorAir* programs in several other areas of the country. By the end of 2006, across America, 891 WWII Veterans realized their dream of visiting their memorial. Two factors that we are extremely proud of are (1) all of our heroes had a **safe** and memorable trip and (2) we were able to raise sufficient funds so that every veteran flew absolutely **free**.

The future looks bright for WWII Veterans throughout America. In February of 2006, Earl and Jeff combined efforts and co-founded the Honor Flight Network. The leaders of various flying programs and others interested in starting similar projects in their own regions attended a summit in Washington DC. Over 100 people were in attendance. Now, a network of participating programs has formed to assist these senior heroes from all across the country. Resources are being pooled, experience is being shared and alliances are being formed throughout America to get WWII Veterans to their precious memorial safely. The Honor Flight Network has established an aggressive goal for 2008 - we want to transport 12,000 veterans from across the United States to the WWII memorial. The program presently has 69 hubs in 30 states. By the end of 2008, the Honor Flight Network hopes to have a hub in all 50 states. Due to the senior age of our heroes coupled with the prediction that we are losing 1200 of them **daily**, we are committed to do all within our power to make their dream a reality. Our focus will remain on WWII veterans and those veterans from any war that have a terminal illness. However, our **vision** goes beyond WWII.

In the future, Honor Flight will also pay tribute to America's other heroes that served during Korean, Vietnam wars, followed by veterans of more current wars. They too have given so much and it's time we show them that their efforts are not forgotten. The Honor Flight Network has learned a lot over these last four years and one point that stands out is that **our veteran heroes aren't asking for recognition. It is our position that they deserve it.** Our program is just a small token of our appreciation for those that gave so much.

Please help us continue to make their dream of visiting THEIR memorial, a reality.

HONOR FLIGHT - our way of saying to all our veterans -- one more FLIGHT with HONOR



Veteran Application

Honor Flight recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, DC to see YOUR memorial at no cost. Top priority (for which we are currently accepting application only) is given to WW II and terminally ill veterans from all wars. In the future, *Honor Flight* will be expanded to include Korean and Vietnam veterans. In order for *Honor Flight* to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience. For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at *Honor Flight*. For further information, please contact us a (937) 521-2400 or visit us at www.honorflight.org

YOUR NAME: _____ **NICK NAME:** _____

(As it appears on your ID for airline travel)

(If Applicable)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ **WEIGHT:** _____ **AGE:** _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT? _____

TEE SHIRT SIZE: (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL) _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT (son, daughter, etc): **NAME:** _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____ **RELATIONSHIP:** _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (someone available the day you travel):

Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Mobile: _____

SERVICE HISTORY: **BRANCH OF SERVICE:** _____ **RANK:** _____

HOME TOWN (from which city and state did you enter the service?): _____

ACTIVITY DURING WWII: _____

MEDICAL: INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL NOT DISQUALIFY YOU. IT PERMITS US TO ASSESS THE SUPPORT WE NEED DURING THE TRIP. INFO IS FOR HONOR FLIGHT AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.

Do you use mobility equipment? YES NO. If YES, please circle device: CANE WALKER WHEELCHAIR SCOOTER

MEDICATIONS (name and how often you take it):

MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?	MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Do you have any drug allergies? _____

Do you have a history of seizure? YES NO Please describe what type (i.e. grand mal, petit mal, other) _____

When was your last seizure? _____. If within past 5 years, STRONGLY advised you discuss trip with your private physician!

PLEASE COMPLETE BACK PAGE

Do you have problems with **motion sickness** (sea or air)? YES NO. If yes, is it controlled with medications? YES NO
If motion sickness is not controlled with medications, it is **STRONGLY** advised you discuss the trip with your private physician!
Do you have any **breathing problems**? YES NO. If YES, please describe: _____
Do you use a home nebulizer machine? YES NO. If YES, you are **STRONGLY** encouraged to discuss the trip with your private physician concerning the use of portable hand-held nebulizers during the trip.
Do you use **oxygen** at any time? YES NO. If YES, you will need your private physician to write a prescription for oxygen to be used during the flight and during the tour. Oxygen will be provided. The prescription should be turned in with the application.
Do you have a **problem walking** the length of a football field without assistance? YES NO. If yes, please describe the reason e.g. lung problems, arthritis, heart problems, etc.): _____
Do you have a history of **open head injuries, sinus problems, or ear problems**? YES NO. If YES, have you flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problems occurred? YES NO. If YES, did you have any problems? YES NO
If YES, it is **STRONGLY** advised you discuss the trip with your private physician. If you have **NEVER** flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problems, again we **STRONGLY** advise you discuss the trip with your private physician.
Do you have a **urostomy or colostomy bag**? YES NO. If YES, please make sure the bag is vented prior to flight. If you do not know if your bag is vented, it is **STRONGLY** advised that you discuss this issue with your private physician.
Additional Comments or Concerns: _____

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY AND SIGN:

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

1. As photographic and video equipment are frequently used to memorialize and document **Honor Flight** trips and events, his/her image may appear in a public forum, such as the media or a website, to acknowledge, promote or advance the work of the **Honor Flight** program. I hereby release the photographer and **Honor Flight** from all claims and liability relating to said photographs. I hereby give permission for my images captured during **Honor Flight** activities through video, photo, or other media, to be used solely for the purposes of **Honor Flight** promotional material and publications, and waive any rights or compensation or ownership thereto.
2. I further state that medical insurance is the responsibility of the veteran and I understand that **Honor Flight** does NOT provide medical care. I understand that I accept all risks associated with travel and other **Honor Flight** activities and will not hold **Honor Flight** responsible for any injuries incurred by me while participating in the **Honor Flight** program

SIGNED: _____

DATE: ____/____/____ (E-mail applicants will be required to sign prior to actual flight date)

Please submit this form to: **Honor Flight, Inc.**

ATTN: Veteran Application

300 E. Auburn Ave.

Springfield, OH 45505-4703

Or e-mail to: **veteran-application@honorflight.org**

Or fax to: **(937) 521-2580**